

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 7, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 11, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates creation of a "step" at a welded joint between workpieces having different levels between their upper planes;

Figure 2 illustrates creation of a "step" on a reverse side of a welded joint;

Figure 3 illustrates an angle or corner welded joint;

Figure 4 illustrates a lap welded joint; and

Figure 5 illustrates an axially welded pipe.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

--1. (amended) A process for welding one or more metal workpieces to be joined together by producing at least one welded joint between edges to be welded of said metal workpiece or workpieces, by using at least one laser beam

B2  
sub  
C1